NEWS RELEASE

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STOCKPILE ISSUES SOLICITATION FOR IODINE

Ft. Belvoir, VA - The Defense National Stockpile Center today issued Basic Ordering Agreement, DLA-IODINE-005 offering crude iodine for sale in Fiscal Year 2005. Subject to market conditions, approximately 250,000 pounds of iodine will be offered for sale each quarter. Details of the issues and comments discussed in our Iodine industry meeting regarding the draft solicitation, and the BOA are located on the Iodine link of the Defense National Stockpile Center (DNSC) homepage. The DNSC homepage address is: https://www.dnsc.dla.mil

The current projected schedule for iodine sales is:

Second Monday of Each Month by 10:00 AM: Posting of Notice (Sale Offering/No Sale) Third Monday by 10:00 AM: Price Quotes are due: (If a sale offering was posted on the Second Monday)

The first sale potential posting date is Monday, November 8, 2004, subject to market conditions. Only pre-qualified quoters will be eligible to participate. Once the BOA postings have begun, please plan to visit the web site on the second Monday of each month after 10:00 AM to check for sales offerings.

A press release will be issued and posted to the web site at the end of each quarter. This release will include the total sold in the quarter, the approximate dollar value, and the names of the companies awarded material. No bid abstract will be sent or posted for each sale.

For copies of the BOA Solicitation please visit our website at https://www.dnsc.dla.mil or contact Chris Hall at (703) 767-5498.

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